

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A rotary sprinkler comprising a rotor with an axle having a tip, and a thrust bearing with a socket having a bottom, said socket being adapted to receive for rotation said axle so that said tip abuts said bottom in a contact zone, wherein said sprinkler further comprises a hard element constituting at least a part of said bottom including said contact zone, said element being made of harder material than said tip, wherein said hard element has concave surface in the contact zone.

23. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said tip is made of plastic.

24. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 23, wherein said rotor with the axle and the tip is one integrally molded plastic part.

25. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element has polished surface in the contact zone.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made of industrial sapphire stone.

28. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made of industrial ruby stone.

29. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made of ceramics.

30. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made of glass.

31. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is made of stainless steel.

32. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said hard element is formed as a plate or as a ball.

33. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 32, wherein said hard element is a stainless steel ball locked in the bottom of said socket.

34. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 33, wherein said tip is concave.

35. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 22, wherein said socket has an inlet opening of diameter D_0 and a peripheral wall between said inlet opening and said bottom, said socket being adapted to receive slidably said axle through said inlet opening, wherein said tip has diameter D_1 close to D_0 while an adjacent portion of said axle has diameter $D_2 < D_1$, such that, when said tip abuts said bottom, an open annular gap is formed between said axle and said peripheral wall, and when said tip is aligned with said inlet opening, said inlet opening is essentially closed.

36. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 35, wherein said rotor is adapted to slide, under water flow action, into a position where said tip abuts said bottom, and is adapted to slide back, in absence of water flow, into a position where said tip is aligned with said inlet opening.

37. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 36, wherein said sprinkler is adapted to operate with said socket disposed above said rotor.

38. (Previously presented) The rotary sprinkler of Claim 35, wherein said tip is formed as one of the following: a ball, a cylinder, a cone, a disc, or another body of rotation.

39. (Currently amended) A hard element for use in a rotary sprinkler comprising a rotor with an axle having a tip, and a thrust bearing with a socket having a bottom, said socket receiving said axle for rotation so that said tip abuts said bottom, said hard element being formed for fixing in said bottom, being made of harder material than said tip, and having a contact surface to meet said tip, wherein said contact surface is concave.

40. (Previously presented) The hard element of Claim 39, wherein said contact surface is polished.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) The hard element of Claim 39, formed as a plate.

43. (Previously presented) The hard element of Claim 39, made of industrial sapphire stone.

44. (Previously presented) The hard element of Claim 39, made of industrial ruby stone.

45. (Previously presented) The hard element of Claim 39, made of ceramics.

46. (Previously presented) The hard element of Claim 39, made of glass.

47. (Previously presented) The hard element of Claim 39, made of stainless steel.